

(2) expresses its deep condolences to the people of the People's Republic of China and to all those affected by this enormous tragedy;

(3) expresses its profound sorrow for the families of all who lost loved ones, including those who suffered the heartbreaking loss of having their children trapped in schools that collapsed;

(4) calls on the President to respond to any requests for humanitarian assistance made by the Government of the People's Republic of China; and

(5) stands ready to support the provision of additional resources, as necessary, to assist those impacted by the earthquake.

CONGRATULATING ALBANIA AND CROATIA

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 570, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 570) congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 570) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 570

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met in April 2008 to enlarge the alliance, to reaffirm the purpose of NATO to defend the populations, territories, and forces in the Euro-Atlantic region, and to further strengthen the ability of NATO to confront existing and emerging 21st-century security threats;

Whereas NATO invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession talks to join NATO and indicated that those talks will begin immediately, with the aim of signing Accession Protocols by the end of July 2008 and completing the ratification process without delay;

Whereas NATO expressed recognition of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by other countries that aspire to join NATO and commended those countries for their efforts to build multiethnic societies;

Whereas NATO agreed that Ukraine and Georgia have made valuable contributions to NATO operations, expressed clear support for the applications for Membership Action Plans from Ukraine and Georgia as the next step to full membership, and stated that NATO will begin a period of intensive engagement with Ukraine and Georgia to assess those applications for the December 2008 meeting;

Whereas NATO invited Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to begin an Intensified Dialogue on the full range of polit-

ical, military, financial, and security issues relating to their aspirations to join NATO;

Whereas NATO expressed the desire to develop an ambitious and substantive relationship with Serbia, making full use of Serbia's membership in the Partnership for Peace, and to make more progress toward integrating Serbia into the Euro-Atlantic community, including through an Intensified Dialogue following a request by Serbia; and

Whereas NATO's ongoing enlargement process has been a historic success in advancing stability and cooperation and reaching the transatlantic goal of ensuring that Europe is whole and free, and united in peace, democracy, and common values: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Albania and Croatia on being invited by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to begin accession talks and recognizes the historic nature of that achievement, earned through years of hard work and a demonstrated commitment to common security and the shared values of NATO members;

(2) expresses strong support for the timely completion of the accession process with Albania and Croatia.

(3) fully supports the invitations to initiate an Intensified Dialogue between NATO and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia;

(4) continues to strongly support the aspirations of Ukraine and Georgia to become integrated into the Euro-Atlantic community, as reaffirmed in Senate Resolution 523, 110th Congress, agreed to April 28, 2008;

(5) supports the enlargement of NATO and believes that continued engagement with all countries that aspire to join NATO will strengthen security for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic region;

(6) supports the declaration of NATO at the Bucharest Summit, which states that NATO's door should remain open to European democracies willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, in accordance with Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (TIAS 1964); and

(7) affirms the statement in that declaration that any decision with respect to the membership of countries in NATO will be made through consensus, by members of NATO, and no country outside of NATO has a vote or veto with respect to such decisions.

AUTHORIZATION OF CALCULATORS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the use of calculators be permitted on the floor of the Senate during consideration of the conference report on the 2009 concurrent resolution on the budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NOS. 537, 538, and 574

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, May 20, at 12 noon, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, with the debate time equally divided and controlled between the chair and ranking member or their designees until 12:30 p.m.: Executive Calendar No. 537, the nomination of Michael G. McGinn;

Executive Calendar No. 538, the nomination of Ralph E. Martinez; finally, Executive Calendar No. 574, the nomination of G. Steven Agee; that the nominees be debated concurrently; that at 2:15 p.m., there be 15 additional minutes, equally divided and controlled between Senators WEBB and WARNER or their designees; that at 2:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination of G. Steven Agee; that upon confirmation of the Agee nomination, Calendar Nos. 537 and 538 be confirmed by consent and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, no further motions be in order, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, under a previous order, the first vote of the day will occur at 2:30 p.m. on the confirmation of the nomination of G. Steven Agee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit. Following executive session, we are expected to turn to the consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 2642, the Iraq supplemental appropriations bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:58 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 10 a.m.